

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS  
PURSUANT TO REVISED 37 CFR § 1.21**

The following is a listing of claims that replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 - 40. (Cancelled)

41. (New) An assembly, comprising:

- a) a face seal made of elastomeric or thermoplastic material and comprising a contact surface with an inner peripheral edge and an outer peripheral edge, said contact surface having textured features adjacent but interior to said outer peripheral edge, wherein said textured features comprise protrusions integral to said contact surface and formed by integrally molding the elastomeric or thermoplastic seal material and;
- b) a second surface, said second surface being substantially flat and pressed against said protrusions of said contact surface of said face seal to produce a seal comprising a region of intensified contact interior to the outer peripheral edge that redirects incoming dirt and debris particles out of the region of intensified contact.

42. (New) The assembly of claim 41, wherein said protrusions have recesses.

43. (New) The assembly of claim 41, wherein said protrusions have a shape selected from the group comprising cylindrical, trapezoidal, rectangular, elliptical, spherical, conoidal, quonset-shaped, conical or discus.

44. (New) The assembly of claim 41, wherein said protrusions are identical.

45. (New) The assembly of claim 41, wherein the spacing of each of said textured features is equidistant.

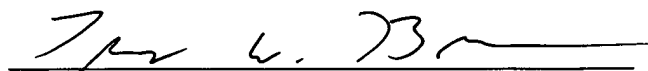
46. (New) The assembly of claim 41, wherein said outer peripheral edge is curved.

47. (New) The assembly of claim 41, wherein said outer peripheral edge is substantially straight.

- 48. (New) The assembly of claim 41, wherein said outer peripheral edge is raised.
  
- 49. (New) A method for creating a seal, comprising:
  - a) providing an assembly according to claim 41;
  - b) providing a compression means and;
  - c) pressing said protrusions of the contact surface of said face seal against said second surface with said compression means under conditions such that a seal comprising a region intensified contact is produced.
  
- 50. (New) The method of claim 49, further comprising a surface movement means, and further comprising the step, after said compressing, moving at least one of said first and second surfaces with said surface movement means.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tom W. Brown", is written over a horizontal line.

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